(d) if so, the steps taken to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Delhi Police has reported that there are no unauthorised taxi stands in Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). There have been instances where more than permissible number of vehicles are allowed to operate from Taxi Stands. The Delhi Police conducts special checkings from time to time; where it is found that the prescribed rules have been violated by Taxi Stand owners, Show cause Notices are served on them for termination of their contract.

Freedom Fighter Pension

1546. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of freedom fighters who participated in the Goan Liberation Movement and those availing the facility of the Central pension; and

(b) the number of freedom fighters who have applied for the pension and awaiting clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). No movement-wise record about the number of applicants applied for pension and the number of cases in which pension has been sanctioned is kept. At present no application relating to Goa Liberation Movement is pending for grant of samman pensions under the Swatantarta Sainik Samman Pension Scheme.

District Office of Food Corporation of India

1547. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to set up a District Office of Food Corporation of India at Maduai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present the Food Corporation of India is not in a position to incur recurring and non-recurring expenditure which is likely to arise in opening of a FCI District Office at Madurai.

Backward Classes

1548. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state : the total number of Indian citizens listed as Backward class, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMOOWALIA) : The data pertaining to population belonging to Backward Classes is not available at present because no enumeration has taken place specifically for this particular category.

Tobacco Production

1549. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of specific steps being taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of tobacco; and

(b) the total production of different kinds of tobacco in each State During the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) In order to increase the production & quality of Virginia Tobacco for export purpose, the Tabacco Board in the Ministry of Commerce, is taking necessary steps fro adequate and timely supply of various inputs viz. pure seed, seedlings, fertilizers etc. are made available to the virginia Tobacco farmers. The Tobacco Board is also involved in the transfer of improved production technologies to the farmers.

(b) The Statewise & typewise production during Eighth Plan period is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

State-wise, Yearwise & Typewise production of Tobacco during the Eighth Five Year Plan

Production in '000 tonnes

Type	State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Virginia	Andhra Pradesh	136.7	101.8	101.1	102.0
	Karnataka	23.8	21.2	20.8	25.0
	West Bengal	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8